

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 6 is in independent form. No claims are amended, cancelled or added in this Reply.

Claim Rejections under § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,124,842 issued to Mizutome et al. (hereinafter "Mizutome"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To anticipate a claim under § 102, a single prior art reference must disclose every element of the claim. MPEP § 2131. Mizutome fails to meet this burden.

Independent claim 6 recites, in part,

... a driving device that drives the liquid crystal display panel in either an impulse drive mode or a hold drive mode, (i) the impulse drive mode having an image display period for performing display of the input image data and a monochrome display period for performing display of certain previously-specified monochrome display data, each of the display periods being performed within an input image data rewriting period, the input image data written sequentially in each of scan lines of the liquid crystal display panel and written in each pixel of the liquid crystal display panel, (ii) the hold drive mode performing display of the input image data for the entire rewriting period, without setting the monochrome display period; [and]

a switching device that switches between the modes for driving the liquid crystal display panel by the driving means;....

Mizutome, however, does not disclose either an impulse mode or a hold mode, and certainly not both modes. Nor does the reference provide a means for switching between the modes.

Mizutome does not disclose an "impulse drive mode".

Mizutome discloses that image data having been subjected to a gradation conversion and border data (data of image to be displayed outside an effective display area) are switched in a time-sharing manner so as to be outputted to a display apparatus (this configuration is "mode A"). (See col. 7, lines 14-44.) However, Mizutome does not describe that the border data is

monochrome display data. Thus, Mizutome does not disclose that “mode A” is an impulse drive mode.

More particularly, the Office Action appears to assert that use of horizontal and vertical “blanking periods” disclosed by Mizutome may anticipate the impulse and hold modes of the present claims. However, these “blanking” periods allow stored data to be displayed on “the redundant pixels (border portion) out of the effective display area” during the same scanning period in which image data is displayed on the effective display area. Fig. 9 of Mizutome illustrates, for example, that “border data [BD0-BD7] is output when either one of the horizontal and vertical blanking signals is set to the Lo (low) level (in the blanking period). Image data [PD0-PD7] in the effective display area is output in a period of time other than the blanking period.” (Col. 6, lines 49-54.) Thus, the border area of the display may display “border data” at a time different from when the effective display area displays image data within the same scan period. At no time does Mizutome disclose that monochrome data is displayed in either the border area or the display area. Thus, the reference cannot reasonably be interpreted as disclosing or implying an “impulse drive mode having an image display period ... and a monochrome display period ... performed within an input image data rewriting period”, as recited in claim 6.

Further, the applied reference further fails to disclose that “input image data [is] ... written in each pixel of the liquid crystal display panel”, as recited in claim 6. The picture elements disclosed in the Mizutome reference include “redundant pixels (border portion) out of the effective display area” to which “border data” is written. It is not disclosed that the “border data” includes image data. Moreover, the reference indicates that “image data” is displayed by the “effective display area” of the liquid crystal panel. Thus, Mizutome fails to anticipate “input image data ... written in each pixel of the liquid crystal display panel.”

Mizutome does not disclose a “hold drive mode”.

However, even if “mode A” were somehow construed to be impulse drive mode (not conceded), it is the only mode disclosed; Mizutome does not disclose a hold drive mode. In contrast, the hold drive mode of the present claims performs display according to the input image

data for the entire rewriting period, without setting a monochrome display period. Since “image data ... is output in a period of time other than the blanking period” (Fig. 9; col. 6, lines 52-54), a hold mode does not appear to be disclosed in which image data is displayed “for the entire rewriting period”. Even if Mizutome’s blanking period were somehow construed to anticipate a monochrome display period, as the Office Action asserts, no uninterrupted image display would be performed “without setting the monochrome display period” as recited by independent claim 6 regarding the “hold mode”.

Mizutome does not disclose switching between impulse and hold drive modes.

Mizutome additionally fails to disclose “a switching device that switches between the modes for driving the liquid crystal display panel by the driving means”, even if the reference were somehow interpreted as including the presently claimed modes.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the § 102 rejections and reconsideration of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections under § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizutome in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,084,861 issued to Iisaka (hereinafter “Iisaka”). (Note: The body of the rejection on page 5 cites Kawabe, but the Examiner has clarified by telephone communication that Mizutome was intended where Kawabe is cited.)

For a § 103 rejection to be proper, a *prima facie* case of obviousness must be established. See MPEP § 2142. One requirement to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all claim limitations. See M.P.E.P. 2142; MPEP § 706.02(j). Thus, if the cited references fail to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn. Mizutome and Iisaka do not alone or in combination disclose every feature of claim 4.

Iisaka does not remedy the defects of Mizutome discussed *supra*. Accordingly, claim 4 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as base claim 6. Withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and reconsideration of claim 4 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James C. Larsen, Reg. No. 58,565 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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